Pay Commission. Consequent to the review, Government Departments with predominantly public dealings or of a commercial nature were advised to review the existing arrangement and switch over to six day week working, wherever feasible.

Procedure for writing of ACR

†1834. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision for changing the procedure regarding writing annual confidential report of officers;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that now their assessment would be done by a group of experts;

(c) what would be the selection procedure of these experts and from which fields these experts would be taken; and

(d) the reaction of the officers on the changed procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) A proposal for changing the procedure regarding writing of Annual Confidential Reports of Indian Administrative Service Officers is under consideration.

Working of Right to Information Act

1835. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analyzed the working of right to Information Act, if so, the findings in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that Central Information Commission has given a questionable ruling by endorsing proposal to prescribe a standard format for the purpose of making an application; and

(c) whether the decision is contrary to the provisions to the Act, if so, the steps taken to correct the anomaly?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The Right to Information Act, 2005 has come into force only on 12th October 2005. It is too early to review the working of the Act.

(b) and (c) The Central Information Commission in its decision No. CIC/C/2006, dated 16/1/2006 had held that a public authority is not precluded from prescribing standard format for the purpose of making the application for ease of reference and response. However, this decision was reviewed by the Commission on 08/02/2006, when it was held that it is incumbent upon any public authority prescribing a format that it remains simple and comprehensible as well as accessible to common folk. The Commission has further clarified that applications for information on plain paper are also to be received and replied within the prescribed time limit.

Floating of NGOs by civil servants

1836. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the specific service rules or regulation that allow civil servants to go on leave or float NGOs while in service, so that, they could continue their good work after retirement;

(b) whether Government have defined the specific kind of good work that could be done by such civil servants who want to prepare for retirement through such organizations;

(c) what steps would be taken by Government to end this ambiguous situation whereby civil servants spend their work time on nurturing NGOs in names of the children or relatives, etc.; and

(d) the reasons for taking a lax attitude on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) There are no such rules.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.